



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
UTAH FIELD OFFICE

PO Box 25007 Salt Lake City, UT 84125-0007 • (800)747-8522

Ag Statistics Hotline: (800) 727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov



Contact: Richard A. Kestle
(800) 747-8522

NASS TO ASSESS BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Salt Lake City, Utah, September 22, 2005 – How are farmers’ and ranchers’ conservation practices improving water, soil and air quality and enhancing wildlife habitat across the country? To help answer this question, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) starting in September.

“The 2002 Farm Bill provided historic levels of funding for conservation programs,” said Rick Kestle, director of the NASS Utah Field Office. “CEAP will offer USDA, the agricultural community, policymakers and the general public a measure of the benefits achieved through this investment.”

Selected producers will be asked for information about their farming activities, land management practices and participation in USDA conservation programs. The information gathered through CEAP will be combined with data from other sources to create a complete picture of environmental and conservation management conditions across the United States.

NASS closely safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses. Information from individual producers and operations is never disclosed, but is used in combination with other responses to set state and national estimates.

“By participating in CEAP, farmers and ranchers have an opportunity to ensure that conservation programs will continue to keep America’s working lands healthy and productive into the future,” Kestle said.

For more information about CEAP and other surveys conducted by NASS, contact the Utah Field Office at 1-800-747-8522.

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